Legislation to allow political funding

2739. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring in legislation to legitimise political funding to tackle corruption in the public life;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether it is a fact that an All-Party meeting was held recently to discuss this issue; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Government has already introduced the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 19.03.2002 which seeks, *inter alia*, to streamline and promote donations received by the Political Parties for Elections by giving suitable tax exemptions.

(c) and (d) Before the introduction of the Bill, the Government had discussed the issue of funding of elections with political parties in the all-party meeting held on 13.09.2001.

Increasing the number of Judges in Patna High Court

†2740. SHRI LALU PRASAD:
PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 31 sanctioned posts of Judges in Patna High Court for approximately eight crore thirty lakh population of Bihar out of which eight are lying vacant;

(b) whether the Law Commission has recommended a minimum of sixty Judges in Patna High Court;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether about eighty two thousand cases are pending in the Court;

(d) whether any recommendation has been received from Government of Bihar as well as Patna High Court for filling up of vacant posts; and

(e) if so, by when Government would complete the task of increasing the number of Judges and filling up of vacant posts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (e) The approved strength of a High Court is fixed taking into account the volume of institution and disposal of main cases and not on the basis of pupulation. Against the approved strength of 31 Judges of the Patna High Court, as on 1.8.2002, 23 permanent Judges, including 3 transferee Judges, are in position in the Patna High Court. Five Judges from Patna High Court are working in other High Courts. As against *six* vacancies, which can be filled up by appointment, in the Patna High Court, recommendation for filling up of two vacancies only has been received from the Patna High Court. Recommendation for filling up of the remaining vacancies is awaited from the Chief Justice of the High Court. The remaining two vacancies in the Patna High Court can be filled up by transfer of Judges from other High Courts. The Law Commission has not recommended any minimum requirement of Judges in the case of the Patna High Court.

As regards pending cases, as on 31st December, 2001, 80956 cases were reported as pending in the Patna High Court.

The Judge strength of every High Court is reviewed every three years. The Chief Justices of all High Courts, including the Patna High Court, were requested to furnish comprehensive details regarding institution and disposal of main cases during the period 1997—2001 by July 31, 2002. Response from majority of High Courts is yet to be received.

CJI on implementation of Civil Procedure Code Amendments

2741. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Chief Justice of India has urged the Lawyers and Judges all over the country to extend their wholehearted cooperation in